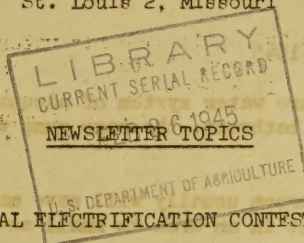


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

January 15, 1945



1944 RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CONTEST WINNERS

Ten boys and girls from farms served by REA-financed lines won 1944 state rural electrification contests conducted by the State Extension Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Each of them received a trip to the annual 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Two were among the six national winners selected at Chicago and received \$200 scholarships offered by a manufacturer of electrical equipment.

Jesse Nemecheck, Jr., 19, who lives on a farm served by the Eastern Nebraska Rural Public Power District, won the Nebraska state contest and a scholarship at Chicago. During 1944, Jesse demonstrated home-made brooders and other electrical equipment at local and state meetings to show 4-H Club members how to make better use of electricity on the farm. He built an electric pig brooder to reduce losses of newly-farrowed pigs on the Nemecheck farm. He also used electrical equipment to speed up repairs of farm machinery, and electrified a circular saw, grinder, sander, jig saw, rip saw and lathe.

Raymond Schafer, 18, who lives on a farm that will be served by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative after the war, won the Minnesota state contest and a scholarship at Chicago. With power supplied by a 32-volt farm plant, Raymond specialized in the use of electrical equipment to repair farm machinery and soon was making repairs for the whole neighborhood. He also used electrical equipment to build several labor saving devices for the farm, including a manure loader and a sweep rake.

The eight other boys and girls living along REA-financed lines who won state rural electrification contests are: Jimmy Glasgow, 15, Greenway, Arkansas; Everett Anderson, 16, Loveland, Colorado; Boyd Chatterton, 18, Onslow, Iowa; Betty Lou Kirk, 15, Rayville, Louisiana; Trennon Jolly, 16, Carthage, Mississippi; Lucille Miller, 18, Davenport, North Dakota; Royce Howard, 16, Midland, Texas; Nan Johnson, 15, Dolphin, Virginia.

IT'S EASY TO BUILD ELECTRIC BROODERS FOR PIGS, LAMBS, AND CALVES

You can build an electric pig or lamb brooder in less than half a day from REA plans available at the Cooperative Office. To build a lamb brooder, you need merely to construct a pig brooder without a guard rail on the front and put it on legs so the roof will be 26 inches above the ground. Be sure to extend the boards all the way down on the two sides to protect the lamb from wind or draft.

A large packing case three feet high usually can be converted into an electric calf brooder in about two hours. Just install a reflector and lamp in the top of the packing case in the same way as in a pig brooder, and leave one side of the case open. A sack or piece of canvas hung over this opening will keep the brooder warm inside.

Either ordinary light bulbs or reflector heat bulbs may be used in pig, lamb and calf brooders. Usually, a 150-watt lamp is large enough for a pig or lamb brooder, and a 200-watt lamp for a calf brooder.

Tests have shown that electric pig brooders will save an average of one pig per litter that otherwise would be lost through chilling or mashing by the sow. Sheep raisers report that many weak lambs can be saved, if they are put in electric brooders for a few hours right after they are born. Electric calf brooders can be helpful in saving weak calves born in chilly weather.

We urge that you build your brooders now. They will then be ready to use when you need them.

TIPS ON PLANNING YOUR BATHROOM

Because there is nothing like a warm bathroom with hot running water on a cold winter morning, be sure to plan to have one when you put in your electric water system. Whether you are able to install a bathroom now, or must wait until later, here are some points to keep in mind:

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1. An electric pressure water system of adequate capacity is the best source of running water for the bathroom; the same pump will supply water for your other household and farm needs.
2. A first floor bathroom usually will save many steps, cost less, and is easier to install. It may be put in an area as small as five-by-seven feet -- in a hallway, closet, or in a pantry.
3. Plan to get an automatic electric water heater for constant supply of hot water the year around. Although electric heaters are scarce at the present time, you may be able to install a range boiler equipped with a safety valve, and a water jacket in your cook stove or furnace. This equipment will give you hot water now, and can be used to save electricity when you get an electric heater. Just install your heater between the range boiler and the faucets. In summer, the range boiler will save current by raising the water from well to room temperature before it enters the electric heater. In winter, the water jacket in the cook stove or furnace will save additional current by sending warm water into the heater.
4. You may be lucky enough to get one of the few cast iron bathtubs on the market. If not, you can install a shower now and get a bathtub later.
5. Consult your State Department of Health on how to install a septic tank that will be sanitary and large enough for your family.

PLEASE REPORT PERSONS SHOOTING AT THE LINES

In the last year, we had (no.) outages caused by gunfire. These outages were unnecessary and interfered with the production of essential food. They also resulted in the needless expenditure of Cooperative funds for repairs.

You can help stop such outages by reporting to the Cooperative office immediately any case of a person's shooting at the lines. This will enable us to take steps to prevent similar acts of vandalism in the future.

Be sure to report any shooting at the lines even though you may be unable to identify the culprits. Should an outage occur at once, your report on the whereabouts of the shooting will help us to restore service in the shortest possible time. If there is no interruption to service, your report still will help because we then can inspect the lines and repair any damage before an outage takes place.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

William O. Goss formerly operated his water pump and milk cooler with a gasoline engine at a cost of \$9 per month. Since receiving electricity, he operates the pump and milk cooler, plus a milking machine, brooder, refrigerator, iron, and lights in the house, barn and all outbuildings for an average power bill of \$3.18 per month. (From newsletter of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania)

George Insley has rigged up an effective popcorn dryer, using electric fans as the air driving force, and dries over a ton at a time. (From newsletter of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, North Baltimore, Ohio)

More than \$53 in cash was received in unregistered mail during November for payment of electric bills. We urge that this practice be discontinued because you have no recourse if mail isn't delivered. In November, one money order, two checks and two cash payments failed to reach the office. If you prefer to mail cash, you should have your letter registered by your postman. (From newsletter of Rush County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, Rushville, Indiana)

Andy Bishop says he wouldn't take ten dollars for his new flood-light. He can now find his cows at night any where in the pasture. (From the newsletter of the Wise Electric Cooperative, Decatur, Texas)

Roy Hanson writes: "Just think of 92 loads of corn unloaded for about \$2, or just a little more than 2 cents a load. You couldn't take electricity away from me for five times the money. (From newsletter of O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative, Fremont, Iowa)